



San Diego City Attorney **CASEY GWINN**

NEWS RELEASE

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MAKINI HAMMOND IS THE 2002 PROSECUTOR OF THE YEAR *City Attorney Calls Hammond "A Pioneer in Community Prosecution"*

San Diego, CA: The City Council today honored Deputy City Attorney Makini Hammond who was named by City Attorney Casey Gwinn as the "2002 Prosecutor of the Year" in the Criminal Division of the office of the City Attorney. Deputy City Attorney Hammond is a member of the City Attorney's Code Enforcement Unit and is the senior prosecutor who heads the City's Drug Abatement Response Team (DART). "She is a pioneer in community prosecution", said City Attorney Gwinn. "She has always been an aggressive, cutting edge prosecutor who utilizes the full extent of both criminal and civil remedies to address criminal activity and public nuisances."

In 2002, Hammond oversaw the criminal prosecution of 25 "brownbag" cases which involved the sale of crack cocaine smoking kits by local merchants. The investigation was a partnership with the City Attorney's office, the Palavra Tree and the State Department of Alcohol Beverage Control. "As a result of Makini Hammond's tenacious persistent, strong leadership and dedication to making the community better, the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control will be able to use the convictions in the administrative cases against our licensees," said Steve Ernst, District Administrator of the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

Hammond also helped establish in 2002 the partnership with San Diego State University and the San Diego Police Department to address chronic nuisance parties where several hundred individuals would gather. As part of this effort, owners have responded by taking care of the party problems by evicting tenants and implementing stricter lease provisions and oversight.

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Deputy City Attorney Hammond also filed the City's first civil gang abatement case in November 1998, which helped to reduce violent gang crime in the Lincoln Park community at that time. For her efforts and success, Hammond was awarded a Commanding Officer's Citation from then San Diego Police Chief David Bejarano.

Deputy City Attorney Hammond spoke before the City Council today. She said, "Service is the rent you pay for the space you occupy. I like helping people and I don't do it by myself. I work in partnership with many others."

Most recently, Deputy City Attorney Hammond worked closely with DART detectives and the San Diego Police Department on a sixteen-month investigation into the business practices and illicit activity taking place at Mullens Market Liquor Store, a long-standing haven for drug, gang and other nuisance activity. This effort culminated in Hammond obtaining a well-publicized injunction against the business owners. The injunction was granted in June and requires the owners of Mullens Market Liquor Store to retain reputable security on the property and prohibits the sale of malt liquors and fortified wines on the property.

Another injunction by Deputy City Attorney Hammond forced the owners of Mr. O's Nightclub in Mission Valley to sell the club. Mr. O's Nightclub had been a notorious location for drug and nuisance activity. "Makini obtains restitution for the community by giving them back their sense of peace and enjoyment which they deserve," said Susan Heath, head of the City Attorney's Criminal Division.

Deputy City Attorney Hammond has also been consistently involved in teaching law enforcement classes for the Regional Community Policy Institute. Her speciality is training law enforcement officers and other government employees to use nuisance abatement and other

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problem-solving tactics. During her tenure in the City Attorney's Office, Hammond has held supervisory positions in the Criminal Division: Supervising Trial Deputy and Presiding Deputy. Hammond began her career in the City Attorney's Office in 1986.

She is a graduate of the Thomas Jefferson School of Law and has a Bachelor's of Arts Degree from Southern Illinois University. Deputy City Attorney Hammond is a member of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association.

The City Council proclaimed today, "Makini Hammond Day", and honored Deputy City Attorney Makini Hammond with a standing ovation for her service to the City of San Diego.

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